

AIMS UPDATE

Arizona Department of Education (ADE)
Standards and Accountability Division
Standards and Testing Unit
December 9, 2002

DISTRIBUTION

We recommend that recipients of the AIMS Update communicate the information to superintendents, charter holders, principals, teachers, special education directors, counselors, assistant principals, students, and parents.

This AIMS Update contains information about the public hearings for the mathematics and reading articulated standards that should be shared with curriculum coordinators.

STATE TESTING SCHEDULE – SPRING 2003

Stanford 9 – Grades 2 – 9

Administration dates: March 17 – May 1, 2003
Test materials delivered no later than February 14, 2003
Scorable materials received by Harcourt no later than May 9, 2003

AIMS – Grades 3, 5, and 8

Administration dates: April 28 – May 9, 2003
Test materials delivered no later than March 31, 2003
Scorable materials received by Harcourt no later than May 20, 2003

AIMS – High School: All Grade 10 students, and all grade 11 and 12 students who have not yet achieved “Meets the Standard” in reading, writing, or mathematics will be tested.

Writing – February 25, 2003

Students whose IEP specifies the use of an out-of-level writing test will be tested between April 28 and May 9, 2003.
Test materials delivered no later than January 28, 2003
Scorable materials received by Harcourt no later than March 10, 2003

Mathematics – April 28, 2003

Test materials delivered no later than March 31, 2003
Scorable materials received by Harcourt no later than May 20, 2003

Reading – April 29, 2003

Test materials delivered no later than March 31, 2003
Scorable materials received by Harcourt no later than May 20, 2003

Critical events and timelines for completion of tasks for both the Stanford 9 and AIMS can be found at <http://www.ade.state.az.us/standards/aims/downloads/CriticalDates2003.pdf>

RECEIVING AND RETURNING AIMS AND STANFORD 9 MATERIALS – CHARTER HOLDERS

Test materials will be packaged by school site and shipped to charter holders for distribution to individual test sites. Materials are expected to arrive four weeks in advance of the allowable test window. Charter holders with physical addresses outside Arizona must contact Barbara Dillard at 1-800-999-5941, extension 5645 or barbara_dillard@harcourt.com and provide a local address.

AIMS STUDENT GUIDES

AIMS Student Guides will be delivered prior to the end of January 2003. Grades 3, 5, 8, and high school Guides will be packaged by school and delivered to districts. Student Guides for charter schools will be delivered to each school site. Please distribute the Student Guides as soon as they are received. We have added 10% to the most current enrollment figures available to cover a sudden increase in enrollment. If you need additional Guides, please call Dale Bulgrin at 602-542-0234 or Jill Stephens at 602-542-1567.

AIMS AND STANFORD ON-LINE MATERIALS ORDERING

Test materials for the Spring 2003 administration of AIMS and the Stanford 9 can be ordered on-line. Districts can report enrollments and update district/school information electronically on Harcourt's Arizona website: az.harcourt.com

Please e-mail Barbara at barbara_dillard@harcourt.com to request a User ID and Password. Provide the name of the person authorized to provide school information and the name of the district or charter holder. Questions may be directed to Barbara Dillard at 1-800-800-8305 ext. 5645 or to Carol Strickler at ext. 5620.

PRE-TEST AIMS AND STANFORD 9 WORKSHOPS

Registration materials for the 2003 pre-test workshops, conducted by representatives from Harcourt Educational Measurement and the Department of Education, accompany this Update. School districts and charter schools are required to attend the AIMS pretest workshops. Experience has shown that they are valuable, especially to new test coordinators. Suggestions for topics to be included are welcome and may be sent to Paul Young at pyoung@ade.az.gov.

The pre-test workshop schedule and registration information are located at <http://www.ade.state.az.us/standards/aims/Administering/Default.asp>.

INTERPOLATED NORMS AND THE GRADE EQUIVALENT SCORE

Information regarding the application of interpolated norms and the provision of the Grade Equivalent Score on the Stanford 9 is enclosed with the Update.

Interpolated Norms

The Department will pay for interpolated norms for districts and charters whose calendar does not allow 136-160 days of instruction during any one week period from March 17 – May 1, 2002. The term “interpolated norms” means that Harcourt statistically adjusts the norm so the comparison is accurate for students who had a different number of days of instruction than the actual norm group.

Grade Equivalent (GE) Score

The Department of Education has eliminated the Grade Equivalent Score from all Stanford 9 reports effective with the 2003 test administration. Arrangements have been made with Harcourt Educational Measurement to include the GE Score at no charge on the 2003 reports as a transitional service. To request the inclusion of the Grade Equivalent Score on your 2003 Stanford 9 score reports, place a mark in the space provided at the bottom of the “Request for Interpolated Norms and Grade Equivalent Score” form. The 2003 administration of the norm-referenced test is the last year that the Department and Harcourt will provide Grade Equivalent Scores.

Information about requesting interpolated norms and the Grade Equivalent Score is located at <http://www.ade.state.az.us/standards/stanford9/>.

THE STANFORD 9 vs. THE STANFORD 10

We are receiving numerous questions regarding plans to move from the Stanford 9 to the Stanford 10. No decisions have been made regarding the future direction of the norm-referenced test. The Stanford 9 will be administered in Spring 2003.

THE NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT AND OUT-OF-LEVEL TESTING

The recent passage of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) and the subsequent release of proposed and/or final draft regulations pertaining to state academic standards, assessment, and accountability has raised questions regarding the impact of new federal requirements on the practice of out-of-level testing (also referred to as off-level testing). There will be no change in assessment policies during the 2002-2003 school year. **Out-of-level testing, as identified on a student's current Individualized Education Program (IEP), will be permitted during the administration of the SAT-9 and AIMS during the 2002-2003 testing cycle.** Any modifications to current assessment policies will be made well in advance of the 2003-2004 testing cycle to allow for appropriate development of IEPs.

PUBLIC HEARINGS – ARTICULATED MATHEMATICS AND READING STANDARDS

The recently articulated mathematics and reading standards will be presented at public hearings as described in the following schedule. Each hearing will begin at 4:00 p.m. with a one hour presentation by staff members from the Department of Education describing the development and verification process for the standards and presentations on the articulation of the mathematics and reading standards. Following the presentations, attendees will be given the opportunity to offer comments about the mathematics and reading standards. The hearing will conclude at 7:00 p.m. Attendees should expect their comments to be recorded and may be limited to 2 to 3 minutes to allow all those present to offer comments. Since the purpose of the hearings is to gather input, attendees should not expect to engage in discussion during the proceedings. In the interest of time, this is a hearing, not a forum.

January 14, 2003
Library
Crane Middle School
3175 S. 45th Avenue
Yuma, Arizona

January 22, 2003
Auditorium
Ironwood High School
6051 West Sweetwater Avenue
Glendale, AZ

January 28, 2003
Auditorium
Show Low District
500 West Old Linden Road
Show Low, AZ

January 15, 2003
Auditorium
Catalina Magnet High School
3645 East Pima Street
Tucson, Arizona

January 23, 2003
Performing Arts Center
Apache Junction High School
2525 South Ironwood Road
Apache Junction, AZ

January 29, 2003
Auditorium
Sinagua High School
3950 East Butler Avenue
Flagstaff, AZ

Please see Page 4 for directions.

The articulated mathematics and reading standards are available for public comment at <http://www.ade.state.az.us/standards/Articulated/>.

TEST COORDINATORS E-MAIL LIST

The Academic Standards and Assessment Section maintains an e-mail list of **district and charter holder test coordinators** to allow us to quickly communicate vital information. The last communication sent via the Test Coordinators E-mail List was sent Wednesday, December 4, 2002 at 4:26 p.m. and contained information about the proposed Proper and Improper Test Preparation Policies. If you did not receive the information, please e-mail Paul Young at pyoung@ade.az.gov and provide your district or charter affiliation, your name, your position, your phone and fax numbers, and your current e-mail address. We will be happy to add you to our list.

DIRECTIONS TO PUBLIC HEARINGS SITES

CRANE MIDDLE SCHOOL: I-17 north/US-60 toward Flagstaff. Merge onto I-10 west via exit number 200A toward Los Angeles. Take the exit – exit number 112 – toward I-8/Yuma/San Diego. Merge onto AZ-85 South. Stay straight to go onto I-8 BL/West Pima Street Merge onto I-8 West. Take the US-95/16 Street exit – exit number 2 – toward San Luis. Turn left onto US-95/East 16th Street. Continue to follow East 16th Street. Turn left onto US-95. Turn right onto West County 11th Street/West 32nd Street. Stay straight through stop light at Avenue C. School is on right side.

CATALINA MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL: From I-10, exit at Speedway Boulevard. Go east on Speedway Boulevard to Dodge Boulevard. Turn left (north). Go north on Dodge Boulevard to Pima Street. The school is on the corner of Pima Street and Dodge Boulevard. The entrance to parking lot is on Pima Street.

IRONWOOD HIGH SCHOOL: North on I-17 to Thunderbird Road West exit - exit number #210B. Merge onto West Thunderbird Road. Turn left onto North 59th Avenue. Turn right onto West Sweetwater Avenue.

APACHE JUNCTION HIGH SCHOOL: Take US 60- (Superstition Freeway) to the Ironwood Exit (number 195). Go north on Ironwood past the high school on the right. Just before reaching the first signal light at Southern Avenue, there is a driveway to the right that leads to a large parking lot. Proceed past the area marked "Visitor Parking." There is ample parking. Walk south through the large courtyard. The Performing Arts Center is on the left.

SHOW LOW DISTRICT: From Payson, go north on I-260 which turns into Deuce of Clubs. Go east (left) on Deuce of Clubs to Central Avenue. Turn north (left) on Central Avenue to Old Linden Road. Turn left on Old Linden Road for approximately ¼ mile to auditorium. From Globe, go east on I-60. I-60 turns into Deuce of Clubs. Take Deuce of Clubs to Central Avenue. Continue north on Central Avenue to Old Linden Road. Turn west (left) on Old Linden Road (approximately ¼ mile). Auditorium is on right side next to Show Low Intermediate School.

SINAGUA HIGH SCHOOL: From the intersection of I-17 and I-40, head east on I-40 approximately 2.5 miles. Exit on Butler Avenue and turn right (east). Little America will be to the right. Proceed south on Butler approximately 1 mile. Sinagua High School will be on the left. Enter the parking lot, walk up the stairs, and enter the commons area. The meeting is in the auditorium at the top of the stairs.